

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 AID-05 /087 W

-----151019Z 045891 /11

P R 150907Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2144

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1312

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, KS, US, UR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREAN PRESS

REF: SEOUL 1185 (DTG 100842Z FEB 77)

SUMMARY: COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS APPEARING IN ROK PRESS PAST WEEK DID NOT DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FOR APPLICATION TO KOREA, BUT DID SERVE TO KEEP TOPIC IN ARENA OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM FEBRUARY 9-11, KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS CONTINUED TO CARRY FEATURES AND EDITORIALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS CURRENTLY AT ISSUE BETWEEN U.S. AND USSR. KEYED TO SOVIET EXPULSION OF AP'S KRIMSKY AND U.S. EXPULSION OF TASS CORRESPONDENT IN RETURN, EVENTS WHICH DREW CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY HERE, COMMENTS CENTERED ON STATE OF U.S.-USSR RELATIONS OR CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, RATHER THAN DRAWING ANY EXPLICIT PARALLELS TO OR CONCLUSIONS FOR SITUATION IN KOREA.

2. TONGA ILBO (2/9) (REFTEL) FOUND IT "NATURAL" THAT
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CARTER HAD TAKEN STEPS TO CARRY OUT CONCERN DATING BACK TO CAMPAIGN PLEDGES AND CONCLUDED U.S. COMMITMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE THOSE IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. HAN'GUK ILBO (2/10) NOTED THAT POSITION OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS "CLEAR" AND CONCLUDED USSR IS TRYING TO TEST CARTER'S RESOLVE. CALLING THIS BOTH A "DILEMMA AND OPPORTUNITY" FOR CARTER'S "MORALITY-ORIENTED DIPLOMACY," PAPER RESOLVED

TO "WATCH CLOSELY" HOW THIS DIPLOMACY WILL BE CONSOLIDATED.
KUKCHE SINBO OF PUSAN (2/11) ALSO NOTED THAT "DIPLOMATIC
WARFARE" BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIETS IS OBJECT OF SPECIAL
ATTENTION WORLDWIDE.

3. ONLY EXCEPTION TO ABOVE GENERAL AND RATHER NEUTRAL
TREATMENT APPEARED IN CHUNGANG ILBO'S POLITICAL GOSSIP COLUMN
FEBRUARY 9, WHICH COMPARED CARTER'S ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
TO DON QUIXOTE'S FIGHTS ON BEHALF OF DULCINEA: A "TRAGIC
ATTEMPT" AGAINST AN OPPONENT WHO SEEMS TO BE JUST "TOO ROUGH."
SUGGESTING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IS U.S. IS "NOT
PERFECT," WRITERS NOTE FEW BELIEVE THERE WILL EVER BE PERFECT
RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CONCLUDE, "IS CARTER
TREADING A LONELY ROAD?"

4. COMMENT: PRESS PLAY IS IN PART REFLECTION OF EDITORS'
DESIRE TO KEEP PUSHING BORDERLINE OF PRESS RESTRICTIONS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. AT SAME TIME NEUTRAL EDITORIAL LINE
REFLECTS PAPERS' AWARENESS OF ROKG VIEW THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
CRITICISM OF SOVIETS IS FINE BUT THAT SIMILAR CRITICISM OF
ROKG WOULD NOT BE FINE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01312
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjka.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 1185
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318215
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, KS, US, UR
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Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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